

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SCCT-01 A-01 OMB-01 AID-05 DHA-02

OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 SCSE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EAE-00 /089 W

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P R 251110Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 250

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BKK TH

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 17770

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH

SUBJECT: ARMY COMMANDER KRIT QUASHES COUP RUMORS

1. ROYAL THAI ARMY COMMANDER (AND ACTING SUPREME COMMANDER)

GENERAL KRIT SIWARA GAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE AUGUST 25 IN

WHICH HE PUT THE KIBOSH ON THAILAND'S CURRENT SPATE OF

COUP RUMORS. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL

USIS TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS OF KRIT'S REMARKS REGARDING

COUP RUMORS.

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

REPORTER: WHAT IS PLAN "C," WHICH CONCERNS THE STAGING
OF A REVOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH A NEWS REPORT PUBLISHED
IN NEWSPAPERS?

KRIT: WHOSE REVOLUTIONARY PLAN IS IT? OF THE MILITARY?

REPORTER: THAT IS WHAT IS ALLEGED.

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KRIT: THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER IN IT. I CAN

GUARANTEE THAT. DON'T BELIEVE ANYBODY WHO SAYS THAT A REVOLUTION WILL BE STAGED.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

KRIT: NO.

REPORTER: THIS SECRET MEMORANDUM?

KRIT: HAVE YOU GOT A COPY YOU CAN SHOW ME? WHO GAVE IT TO WHO?

REPORTER: IT IS A PLAN DRAFTED SIMILAR TO THAT USED ON NOVEMBER 17, 1971.

KRIT: THERE WAS NO PLAN AT ALL ON NOVEMBER 17, 1971. I AM SPEAKING FRANKLY. I WAS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AT THAT TIME, THEREFORE I KNOW THERE WAS NO PLAN AT ALL, THAT NO PLAN HAD BEEN DRAFTED AT ALL. TALKS WERE HELD THAT DAY AND ACTION WAS TAKEN THE SAME DAY, THEREFORE, IT IS CERTAIN THAT THERE WAS NO PLAN, AS IS BEING RUMORED NOW.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THE 1932 CONSTITUTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUT IN FORCE AGAIN AFTER THE STAGING OF THAT REVOLUTION.

KRIT: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY REVOLUTION, OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE HEARD OF IT. SO LONG AS I AM COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY, AS WELL AS ACTING SUPREME COMMANDER, I GUARANTEE THAT NO REVOLUTION WILL BE STAGED.

REPORTER: YOU HAVE NEARLY REACHED THE AGE LIMIT... IN ONE MORE MONTH. ISN'T THAT CORRECT?

KRIT: YES, IN ONE MORE MONTH. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN... I AM CERTAIN THAT NO REVOLUTION WILL BE STAGED.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT AFTER SEPTEMBER? WHAT IF A RE-UNCLASSIFIED

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OLUTION SHOULD BE STAGED AFTER YOU RETIRE?

KRIT: I AM CERTAIN THAT ANY THOUGHT OF STAGING REVOLUTION IS FAR AWAY FROM THE MINDS OF OUR MILITARY NOW. WE DON'T WANT TO STAGE A REVOLUTION. WHAT REASON COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE FOR US TO STAGE A REVOLUTION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION AND CONDITIONS IN OUR COUNTRY AT PRESENT, WHICH ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN THE

PAST. WHEN REVOLUTIONS WERE STAGED IN THE PAST, TANKS WERE BROUGHT OUT AND MACHINEGUNS SET UP AT CROSSROADS, AND PEOPLE WALKED PAST THEM WITHOUT DISPLAYING ANY INTEREST AT ALL, NOT EVEN REALIZING THAT A REVOLUTION WAS BEING STAGED. IT IS A FACT THAT THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PAST WERE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THEIR FEELINGS TODAY. WHEN REVOLUTIONS WERE STAGED IN THE PAST, NOBODY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO ANY INCIDENTS THAT WERE OCCURRING; EVERYBODY CONCENTRATED ON EARNING A LIVING AND GOING TO WORK NORMALLY. BUT THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE ARE VERY DIFFERENT NOW. A REVOLUTION COULD NOT BE STAGED EASILY TODAY, UNLIKE IN THE PAST, BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED OF AND SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE. AND WHAT REASON COULD THERE BE TO STAGE A REVOLUTION?

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THE PEOPLE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DEMOCRATICALLY CONSCIOUS NOW?

KRIT: YES. THE PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE DEMOCRATICALLY CONSCIOUS NOW; THEY FEEL MUCH GREATER INTEREST IN THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR COUNTRY, AND THEY FEEL MUCH GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT. THEREFORE, IT IS MY VIEW THAT SHOULD THE MILITARY OR ANYBODY STAGE A REVOLUTION, THEY WOULD HAVE TO THINK TWICE, AS TO WHAT REASON THERE IS TO STAGE A REVOLUTION AND WHAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE LATER. SHOULD THE PEOPLE NOT APPROVE OF AND SUPPORT THE STAGING OF A REVOLUTION, HOW COULD THE PERSONS WHO HAD STAGED IT REMAIN IN POWER?

REPORTER: BUT WHAT IF THE PEOPLE WANT THE MILITARY AT A TIME WHEN THE SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY IS AS IT IS AT PRESENT?

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KRIT: EH* MY VIEW IS DIFFERENT. I SAY THAT THE PEOPLE REALLY WANT THE MILITARY, BUT THEY WANT THE MILITARY TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR COUNTRY TO BE STRONG AND STABLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW ONLY. THIS IS MY VIEW, MY FEELING. IN OTHER WORDS, MANY GROUPS WANT ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY TO BE FIRM AND STRONG, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY WANT THE MILITARY TO STAGE A REVOLUTION. WHAT THEY WANT IS FOR THE MILITARY TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN UPHOLDING THE LAW, FOR THE LAW TO BE RESORTED TO INSTEAD OF MOB LAW. THAT IS MY FEELING.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE REPORT THAT A PLAN HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IS DELIBERATE SPREADING OF A RUMOR?

KRIT: I TOLD YOU LONG AGO, AND SEVERAL TIMES, THAT

REPORTS HAVE BEEN SPREAD CONSTANTLY, AFTER THE OCTOBER 14, 1973, UPRISING, THAT A REVOLUTION WOULD BE STAGED. IF REVOLUTIONS HAD BEEN STAGED AS REPORTED, BY THIS TIME REVOLUTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN STAGED SO MANY TIMES IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP COUNT OF THEM.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THOUGH YOU DENY THAT A REVOLUTION WILL BE STAGED, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE THINKING OF STAGING ONE, SO HOW COULD YOU KNOW WHAT THEIR THOUGHTS ARE?

KRIT: NOBODY CAN FORBID ANYBODY FROM HAVING THOUGHTS OR PLANNING ANYTHING IN THEIR MINDS, BUT I HAVE KEPT ON VERY CLOSE AND INTIMATE TERMS WITH ALL MEN UNDER ME, THEREFORE I FEEL ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT NO REVOLUTION WILL BE STAGED. THE REPORTS SPREAD MIGHT BE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CREATING DISUNITY AND DISTRUST, BECAUSE THE MILITARY IS THE ONLY INSTITUTION LEFT WHICH IS STILL FIRMLY AND STABLY UNITED AND WHICH WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT IS OUT OF LINE OR UNDESIRABLE. THEREFORE, IT MIGHT BE THE OBJECTIVE OF THE OTHER SIDE, OR A GROUP WHICH HAS BAD INTENTIONS TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT OR TOWARD OUR NATION, TO CREATE DISUNITY, UNREST, AND MISUNDERSTANDING, OR DISTRUST. IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS SHOULD WE BE CREDULOUS; THEREFORE I HAVE CONSTANTLY EMPHASIZED TO MEN UNDER MY COMMAND THAT THE STAGING OF REVOLUTIONS IS TOTALLY OUT-DATED. WE SHOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT STRONG IN ADMINISTRATION OF OUR COUNTRY, AND BECAUSE WARS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS ARE COMING VERY NEAR US. IF WE CONCENTRATE ONLY ON FIGHTING FOR POWER, ON BEING POWER-CRAZY, THAT WOULD CREATE RESULTS WANTED BY THE OTHER SIDE. WE HAVE SEEN EXAMPLES ALREADY, IN CAMBODIA, IN LAOS, AND IN VIETNAM, COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE COMMON BORDERS WITH US OR WHICH ARE AT NO GREAT DISTANCE FROM OUR COUNTRY. PERSONS WHO ARE PANICKED AT PRESENT ARE PERSONS WHO FEAR WAR FROM OUTSIDE. WHEN INCIDENTS FIRST OCCURRED IN CAMBODIA, THEN IN VIETNAM. SEVERAL PERSONS PLANNED TO GO ABROAD, LEADING TO REPORTS THAT LARGE SUMS OF MONEY WERE BEING TAKEN OR SENT OUT OF OUR COUNTRY. BUT THE SITUATION IS RETURNING TO NORMAL AGAIN NOW, AS CAN BE SEEN FROM ACTIVITIES OF MERCHANTS IN GENERAL. BUT TO WHAT EXTENT THE SITUATION IS IMPROVED ALSO DEPENDS ON MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL PEACE AND ORDER TO NO SMALL EXTENT. IF OUR INTERNAL SITUATION, INCLUDING TRADE, BECOMES NORMAL AGAIN, IT IS EASY FOR GOOD UNDERSTANDING TO BE RESTORED AMONG US THAIS. I THEREFORE, WISH TO APPEAL TO MASS MEDIA FOR YOUR COOPERATION, SUCH AS TO EXERCISE CARE IN THE PUBLICATION OF ANY NEWS REPORTS WHICH MIGHT CREATE DISUNITY.

I MAKE THIS APPEAL TO YOU AS A FELLOW THAI, NOT AS A POLITICIAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO17770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-0567
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750819/aaaaaqnf.tel
Line Count: 226
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMY COMMANDER KRIT QUASHES COUP RUMORS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH, (KRIT SIWARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006